KATOEN COTTON SA

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Voorwoord

Die afgelope produksieseisoen het gebuk gegaan onder een van die ergste droogtes oor die laaste honderd jaar. Die gevolg is dat droëland katoenhektare met bykans 70% teenoor die vorige seisoen afgeneem het. Gelyklopend hiermee het besproeiings-hektare ook onder druk gekom as gevolg van die hoë somergraanpryse wat tydens planttyd geheers het en heelwat boere eerder verkies het om mielies te plant. Die jongste skattings dui op 'n oes van 47 000 bale vesel wat nagenoeg 50% laer is as verlede jaar se produksie.

Die grootste uitdaging wat die bedryf tans in die gesig staar is om ten minste genoeg katoen te produseer wat deur die Cluster benodig word. Meeste van die bekende kleinhandelsklere-en -tekstielgroepe is nou lede van die Katoencluster wat reeds hul katoenbehoeftes vir volgende seisoen bevestig het waarvan die totale bestellings alreeds vanjaar se oes oortref. Onder die Cluster is daar 'n versekerde mark vir die katoenboer teen 'n vaste prys met die voordeel dat geen fluktuasies in wêreldkatoenpryse die plaaslike clusterprys gedurende die seisoen sal beïnvloed nie!


Hennie Bruwer

Pryssekerheid en afset is van die voordele onder die Cluster en wat nou deur boere benut moet word. Insetfinansiering, veral ten opsigte van droëlandverbouing, was ook vir baie jare problematies as gevolg van die risikokomponent maar het Katoen SA in samewerking met die pluisbedryf gekyk na oesversekering wat die risiko vir finansierders kan beperk. Kyk artikel elders in die tydskrif wat die voorgestelde model uiteensit en wat finansiering vir katoenproduksie baie meer aantreklik uit die oogpunt van 'n voornemende finansierder sal maak. Hierdie produk sal met die nuwe plantseisoen in die Limpopoprovinsie-produksiegebied as 'n loodsprojek in werking gestel word.

Voorts vind indringende samesprekinge tans plaas rondom die aanskaf van voldoende katoenoestoerusting om groter produksie te hanteer. Hierdie gesprek is van kardinale belang en is die uitkoms daarvan bepalend vir volgehoue toekomstige groei in produksie. Groei in die katoenbedryf, van produsent tot kleinhandel, is nou van hoogste belang en was die bedryf lanklaas so goed geposisioneer om gevolg hieraan te gee.

Preface

The past production season saw one of the worst droughts over the past 100 years, resulting in close to a 70% drop in dryland hectares compared to the previous season. Irrigation hectares were also under pressure due to the high prices for summer grains at planting time, resulting in many farmers opting to plant maize instead. The latest estimates indicated that a local crop of about 43 000 bales can be expected this year, which is 53% down from the previous season.

The biggest challenge facing the industry this year is to produce sufficient cotton to satisfy the demand from the Cluster. Most of the well-known retail clothing and textile groups are now members of the Cotton Cluster and have already made known their cotton requirements for the next season. Their total requirements already exceed the crop of the current year. Under the Cluster there is a ready market with a fixed price in place for the cotton farmer with the guarantee that no fluctuation in world cotton prices will affect this price during the course of the season!

Price certainty and guaranteed off-take are some of the benefits under the Cluster which farmers should now make use of. Input financing, especially in respect of dryland farming has been problematic for many years now due to the high risk component, but Cotton SA in conjunction with the ginning industry are looking into establishing crop insurance with the view to minimise the risk for financiers. See the article in this magazine setting out the proposed model which will make the provision of finance from the financial institutions' point of view, more attractive. This product will be launched as a pilot project in the coming season in the Limpopo Province production region.

Currently, important consultations are taking place regarding the acquisition of adequate cotton harvesting equipment to handle larger crops. These discussions are of key importance and the outcome will determine to a great extent the sustainability of future growth in production. Growth in the cotton industry, from producer to retailer, is of extreme importance right now and the industry is ideally positioned to give effect to this at present.

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WINSGEWINDHEID VAN KATOEN IN WISSELBOU OP VAALHARTS

Vroeë witmielies vs katoen in wisselbou

Louis Olivier, Besturende Direkteur, Vaalharts Katoen.

Die vraag op produsente se lippe tans is: "Moet ek witmielies vroeg plant om die relatief goeie prys in die Maart 2017 stroop-seisoen op die korttermyn te benut, of moet ek eerder katoen plant en die wisselbouvoordeel op die langtermyn behou?"

Soos oor baie jare geleer in die intensiewe verbouing van gewasse onder besproeiing , is wisselbou nog steeds die regte roete om te volg. Hierdie argument word ook meer relevant met die pryssituasie tans in die RSA katoenmark. Die wisselkoers en kort periodes van opwaartse spronge wat die wêreld katoenmark die afgelope tyd gemaak het, het goeie kompeterende pryse vir katoen vir 2017 seisoen bewerkstellig.

Vaalharts Katoen het ‘n minimumprys van R8200/ton saadkatoen oor die skaal aangekondig. Reeds is daar ook kontrakte met kopers vir 2017 lewering van R 9100/ton gesluit wat impliseer dat selfs hoër minimums moontlik sal wees. Volume en graad sal egter ook bepalend wees.

Tabel 1 toon die inkomste vergelyking van gewasse per hektaar soos op 28 Julie 2016. Tabel 2 toon die produksiekoste en marges vir die verskillende gewasse maar hou in gedagte dat insetkoste produsent en gebied spesifiek is en sal daarom verskil.

Belangrik om op te let dat ook die vastekoste van elke produsente kan verskil gegewe die situasie. R 6000/ha is effens aan die hoë kant, maar die berekening maak ruim voorsiening aan die koste kant om so konserwatief as moontlik te wees.

Die afleiding is ook dat gewaspryse op redelik winsgewende vlakke is, maar dat winsgewindheid nie baie afwaartse druk sal kan hanteer nie. Geelmielies wys reeds rooi ligte in die verband.

TABEL 1:

KATOENVOORDEEL PER HA TEENOOR TRADISIONELE WISSELBOU

		WISSELBOUPROGRAM		
		1	2	3
2016	Jun	*WIT MIELIES*	*KATOEN*	*KATOEN*
	Jul			
	Aug			
	Sep			
	Okt			
	Nov			
	Des			
2017	Jan			
	Feb			
	Mrt	R 8 040		
	Apr			
	Mei		R 11 500	R 11 500
	Jun	*GARS*	*GARS*	*GARS*
	Jul			
	Aug			
	Sep			
	Okt			(plus 1 ton)
	Nov	R 2 640	R 2 640	R 6 347
	Des	*GEEL MIELIES*	*GEEL MIELIES*	*GEEL MIELIES*
2018	Jan			
	Feb			
	Mrt			
	Apr			(plus 1 ton)
	Mei	R -1 438	R -1 438	R 2 230
	TOTAAL	R 9 242	R 12 702	R 20 077
			R 3 460	R 10 835
			VOORDEEL OOR 24 MNDE	

Uit bogenoemde kan ons sien dat daar wel ‘n korttermyn voordeel met die witmielie keuse is. Wat egter deurslaggewend is, is dat met die regte wisselbou waar katoen van deel is, is die langtermyn voordeel aansienlik beter Die opbrengsverbetering op kleingrane en opvolgende mielies is oor die laaste vier jaar noukeurig waargeneem om hierdie uitspraak te laat geld.

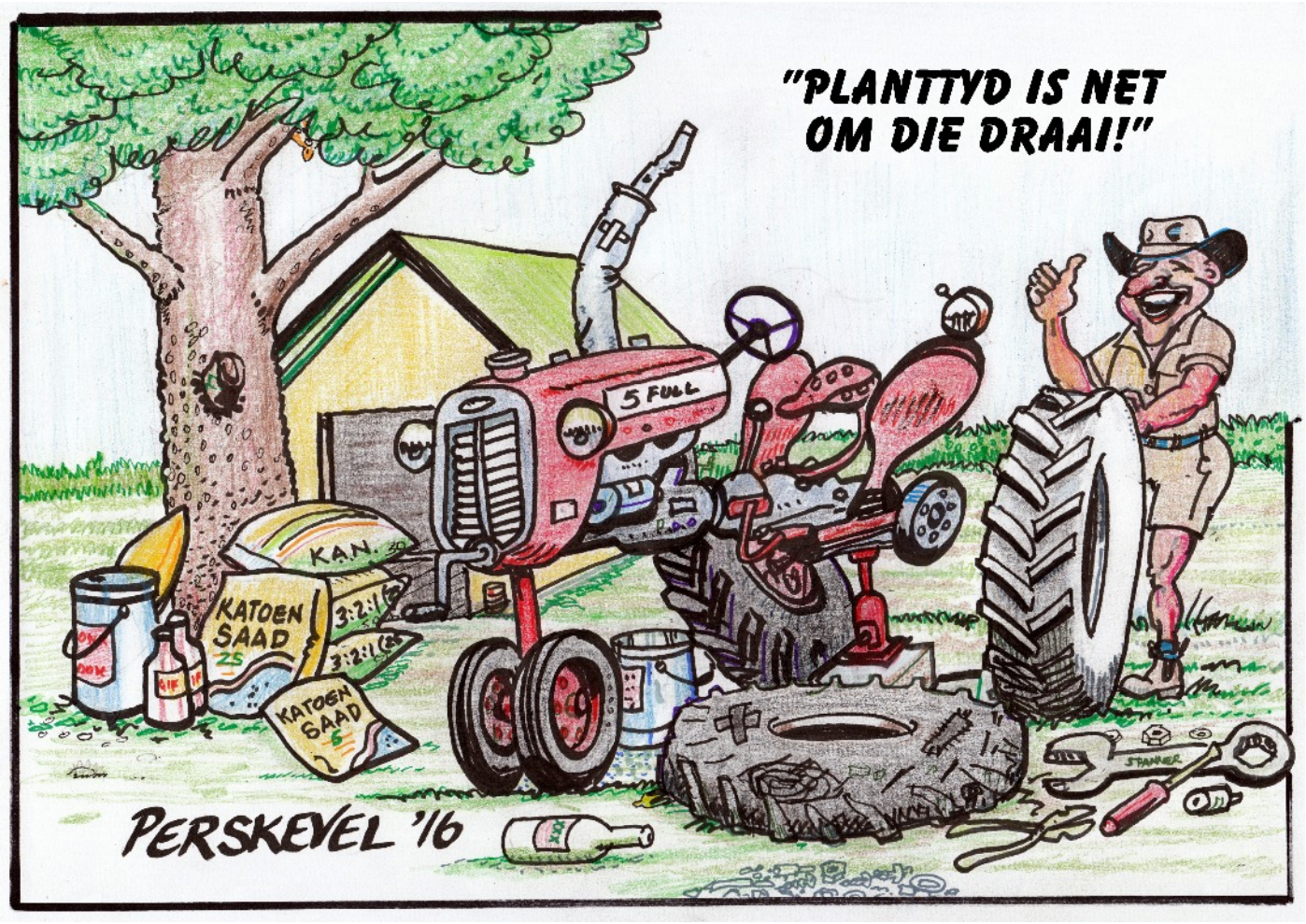
TABEL 2:

PRODUKSIEKOSTE EN MARGES PER HA

	KATOEN	WIT MIELIES	GEEL MIELIES	GROND BONE	GARS	LUSERN
Produksiekoste/ha	R 32 000	R 26 000	R 26 000	R 25 700	R 19 164	R 25 000
Prys/ton (Safex)	R 9 000	R 3 640 R 3 940	R 2 445 R 2 745	R 9 500	R 3 707	R 2 500
Opbrengs t/ha	5.5	11.0	12.5	3.5	7.5	16.0
Inkomste R/ha	R 49 500	R 40 040	R 30 563	R 33 250	R 27 803	R 40 000
Bruto Marge R/ha	R 17 500	R 14 040	R 4 563	R 7 550	R 8 639	R 15 000
Vaste Koste R/ha	R 6 000	R 6 000	R 6 000	R 6 000	R 6 000	R 6 000
Netto Marge R/ha	**R 11 500**	**R 8 040**	**-R 1 438**	**R 1 550**	**R 2 640**	**R 9 000**

Daarenteenoor is die gevolg van die korttermyn winsgedagte, dat siektes soos fusarium en die al die nadelige gevolge van monokultuur, die produsente in 'n skaakmatposisie plaas wat sy wisselbou winsgewindheid betref.

Ter afsluiting is daar geen twyfel dat katoen met nuwe tegnologie, bemarkingsmetodes en bestuurspraktyke, 'n prominente bydrae tot die winsgewindheid van die boerderysisteem kan en sal maak nie.



‘N PLAASLIKE SPINNER SE PERSPEKTIEF OMTRENT SUID-AFRIKAANSE KATOEN

Enrique Crouse, Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte, Prilla 2000

Prilla wat die grootste katoenspinaanleg in Suid- Afrika bedryf, is uitsluitlik ‘n gare spinner wat die brei-, weef- en handdoeksektore bedien. Aangesien geen van hulle gare “in-huis” in die vervaardiging van materiaal gebruik word nie, is dit krities belangrik dat die garekwaliteit deurgaans van goeie gehalte moet wees. Dit is die maatskappy se beleid om soveel plaaslik geproduseerde katoen as moontlik op te neem sonder benadeling van die kwaliteit van die gare.

Indien daar nie katoen beskikbaar is wat aan die tegniese vereistes soos hieronder genoem, voldoen nie, kan ‘n spinner die volgende tegniese probleme verwag:

- Die grootste bedreiging is dat die gare wat vervaardig word tot “Barre” eise aanleiding kan gee. “Barre” is ‘n kleurvariasie wat gedurende die kleuringproses van gebreide of geweefde artikels kan kop uitsteek. Spinners toets elke baal in hulle vesellaboratoria ten einde die verskillende soorte katoen op ‘n spesifike manier bymekaar te groepeer, bekend as “lay downs”, wat aan streng vereistes onderworpe is ten einde te voorkom dat hulle gare tot “Barre” probleme aanleiding kan gee.

- Garesterkte is ook baie belangrik omdat breiers en wewers voortdurend in vinniger masjinerie investeer met die doel om produktiwiteit te verhoog. Hierdie masjinerie vereis sterker gare met ‘n baie lae CV% in sterkte variasie. Die gare wat Prilla vervaardig, hoofsaaklik vir brei, kan ook nie geproduseer word van katoen met ‘n mikronêrwaarde van hoër as 4.5 nie.

- Lotte katoen moet so groot en eenvormig as moontlik wees aangesien katoen van verskillende oeste nie in die tekstielpyplyn gemeng mag word nie. Vir ‘n spinner, breier of wewer om verskillende oeste se katoen of gare apart te hou, ook gedurende die kleuringproses, kan tydrowend wees en kostes vir die bedryf opjaag.

- Om gare te spin van katoen met ‘n lae rypheidsverhouding hou baie risiko in aangesien dit aanleiding kan gee tot material wat afgegradeer moet word weens ‘n swak voorkoms of kleur as gevolg van die hoër konsentrasies van dooie vesels per meter material.

- Wanneer ‘n “lay down” eers vasgestel is en die spinproses begin het, kan die samestelling daarvan nie met meer as 5% per week gewysig word nie. In Prilla se geval waar die “lay down” vir “ring spinning” bestaan uit ‘n 53 bale groep, beteken dit dat net 2 bale per “lay down” in enige gegewe week verander kan word.

DIE TEGNIESE VEREISTES OM KONSEKWENT KATOENGARE VAN GOEIE KWALITEIT TE PRODUSEER

“Die mees belangrikste is om groot volumes van eenvormige katoen te bekom wat sal verseker dat daar vir minstens 3 tot 4 maande katoen gespin kan word sonder om enige noemenswaardige verandering aan die spinprosesse te maak.”

Eenvormige katoen kan gedefinieer word as katoen waarvan:

- alles vanaf een kultivar afkomstig is;
- ten minste 5000t van dieselfde graad is maar wat
- van nie meer as 3 pluismeulens afkomstig is nie;
- die grade Deal/Dirk AO tot A1 moet wees;
- die mikronêr tussen 3.5 en 4.5 moet wees; en
- die rypheidverhouding tussen 0.87 en 0.90 moet wees.

Met inagneming van die tegniese vereistes wat deur spinners gestel word, is dit duidelik dat dit problematies vir 'n plaaslike spinner soos Prilla is om Suid-Afrikaanse katoen te gebruik as gevolg van die volgende faktore wat betref die huidige beskikbaarheid daarvan:

- Die relatiewe klein katoenoes wat tussen 5 - 6 pluismeulens versprei is.
- Die verskillende kultivars.
- 'n Mengsel van hand- en masjienplukkatoen.
- 'n Mengsel van droëland- en besproeiingskatoen.
- Grade wat wissel van Deal AX tot Dirk A2.
- Hoeveelhede en kwaliteite wat nie voor die aanvang van die seisoen bekend is nie wat 'n onsekerheid by spinners laat wat betref die vooruit aankoop van hulle behoeftes.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse katoenbedryf moet streef om laasgenoemde sake aan te spreek ten einde dit moontlik te maak vir spinners soos Prilla om groter volumes plaaslike katoen te kan opneem sonder benadeling van garekwaliteit.

Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) General Assembly in Hong Kong

On 14-15 June 2016, BCI hosted the General Assembly, serving as a key BCI event and opportunity to inspire and motive members in their efforts to achieve scalable commodity transformation. BCI members from around the world, representing the entire cotton supply chain gathered in Asia to learn, network and advance their Better Cotton procurement. South Africa was represented by Heinrich Schultz (Manager, Sustainable Cotton Cluster), Joseph Kempen (Chairman, South African Cotton Ginners Association) and Tobie Jooste (Business Information Manager Cotton SA).

Industry leaders from all over the world delivered presentations ranging in topics from transformation in other sectors, to transformative trends in traceability, standards and agricultural research and technology. Part of the Assembly was a trade show were some BCI members had the opportunity to showcase their products. Attendees also had the opportunity to network with members like Nike, WWF and with the BCI Leadership Team. Positive feedback was received from the BCI Leadership Team with regard to the South African implementation of the BCI standard.

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT

A risk finance structure for the expansion of cotton production in South Africa

Cotton Crop Insurance Concept

Rick Dillon & Louis Ferreira – Integrated Risk Managers

Numerous changes and pressure in the agricultural environment have led Cotton SA to look for innovative solutions to increasing the area under cotton production.

The pressure is being spurred on by role players in the cotton supply chain who are realising that, they too, suffer from credit deterioration if there is disruption or decline in production. This in turn has led to the development of an integrated risk management package for Cotton SA that will be rolled out in the near future. The programme is continuous, gradual and integrated. It contains components of commodity and production finance and integrates these with risk management and finally with off-take or supply chain managements.

The package is being structured, tested and gradually implemented under the auspices of Cotton SA with the initial objective of :

- **Protecting the Gins from the financial or margin risk that results from a shortfall in delivery of an anticipated throughput.**
- **By using the security value of the insurance package to encourage the production of new dryland cotton fields throughout the producing area.**
- **Provide traditional risk mitigation and insurance to established cotton farmers where required.**

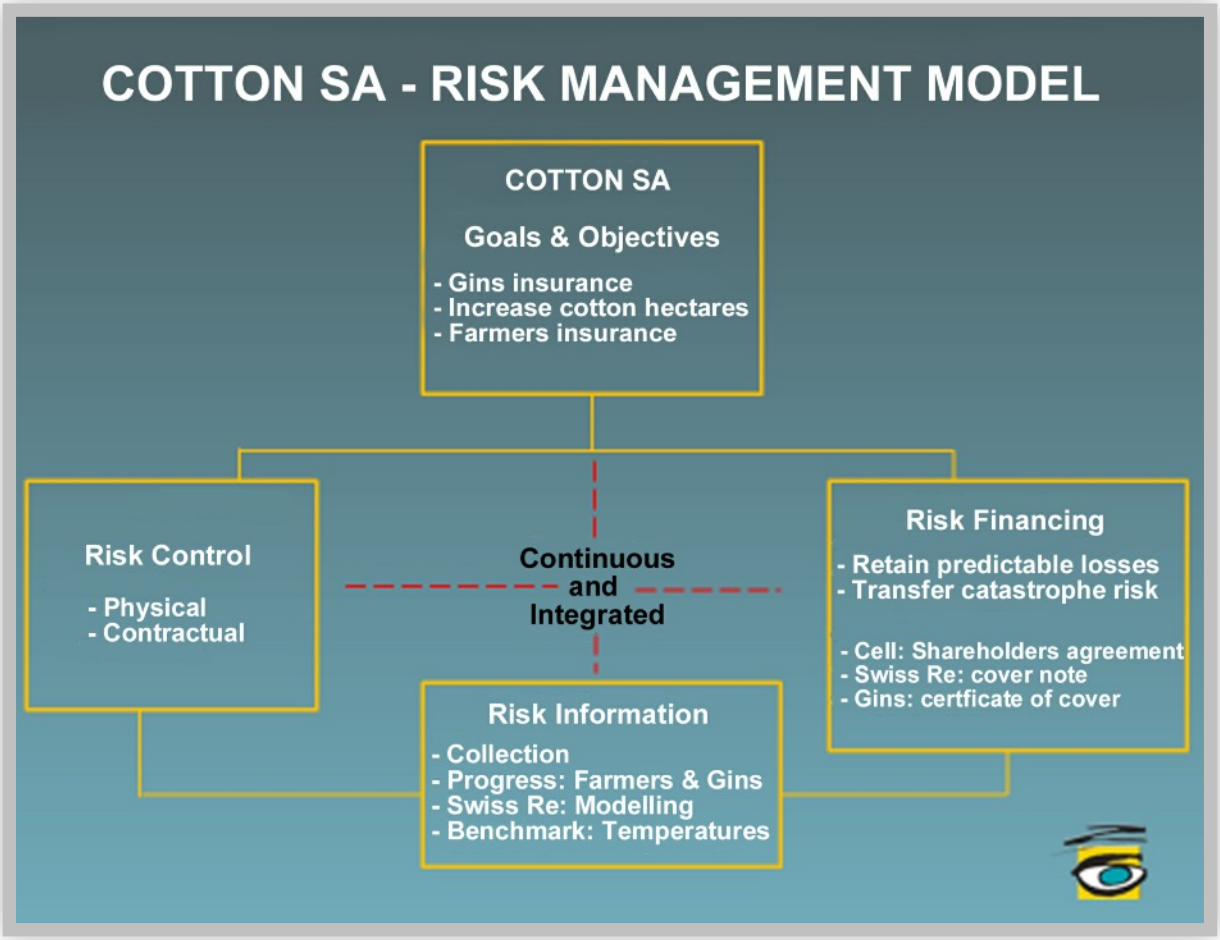
In farming there is natural competition and selection between commodities like maize and cotton where farmers debate and decide which commodity to plant. Mostly the decision is a financial one – which commodity will give the best return.

Farmers traditionally are known to be price takers in the supply chain market. They are also great risk takers with the environmental risk of climate and weather events usually landing up being the responsibility of the farmer or producer in the supply chain. There were few players in the supply chain that were willing to share the production risk with farmers. This is changing and there is now increasing evidence that supply chain participants or off takers are willing to go beyond the farm gate to share or participate in the risk borne by farmers.

This fact was instrumental in the decision taken by Cotton SA to form a cluster and to embark on the process of integrating and managing their own commodity risk. In this way they hope to be able to compete with other commodities and ensure sustainability in cotton production. It is still a process and there are no quick fix solutions.

One of the key elements evident at the outset was the lack of formal structures for farmers to align effectively with supply chain leaders. It is only through building the right structures along the supply chain between farmer and large corporations and providing the supporting banking products that the primary economic inputs can be aligned to achieve high efficiency. The proposed Cotton SA Risk Finance Structure or “Cell” addresses some of these inefficiencies encapsulates risk management, risk retention and re-insurance of defined catastrophe cover.

What are the issues and how are they addressed



The starting point is to set clear Goals and Objectives.

These can be short term or long term. Initially the objectives for the current project roll out are stated as:

- Protection of sustainability of the Gins. The Gins are seen as key points for the aggregation of farmers and through their agreement with farmers are able to perform the vital function of aggregation. This structure is not about the protection of an individual farmer but the protection and risk mitigation on a complete supply chain.

- The initial drive would like to expand the area under cotton production. The Gins will be the focus for implementing this drive and be responsible for the aggregation and risk control of individual farmers.

- Provide traditional insurance for producers as necessary.

For this project to become a reality it involves bringing the financier and off-taker together and, through the intervention of a risk or "cell" manager, to demystify the issue of risk and debunk the traditional theory of the farmer as primary risk taker. The solution developed will include a measure of rick control or self-management of risk. This usually involved assessment of good practice and the stakeholders all being aware of the "rules of the game". The other component of the package is risk financing which includes retention and re-insurance.

All of the above is dependent on the collection and verification of historical data. Valid data is the foundation to being able to predict the volatility of production. A key myth that needs to be debunked through this process is the traditional view of insurance being an "investment". By being the owner of the insurance structure Cotton SA will be responsible for self-regulation and control. The insurance package is now an integral part of management decisions and not just a convenient source of funding with no recourse.

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INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT

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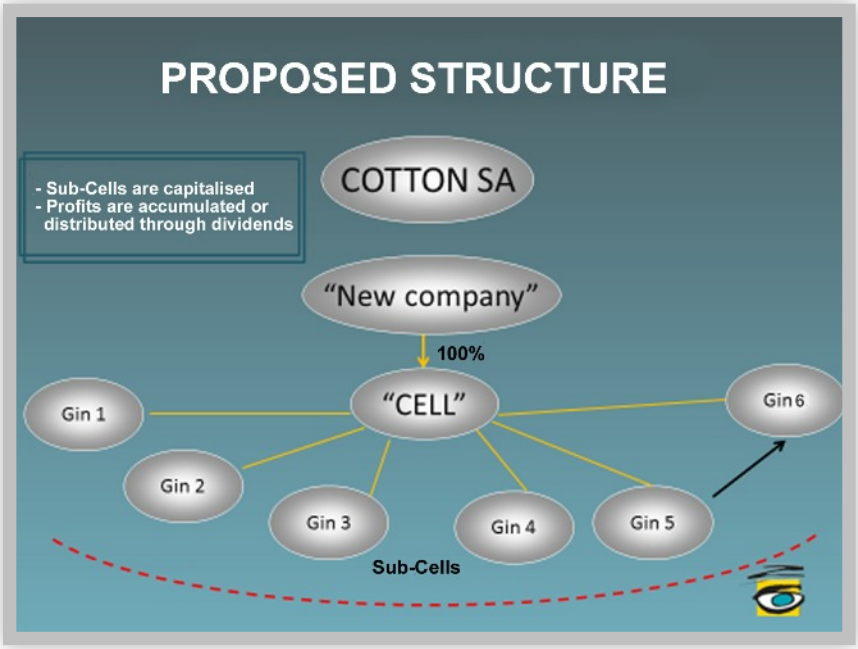
How will it operate?

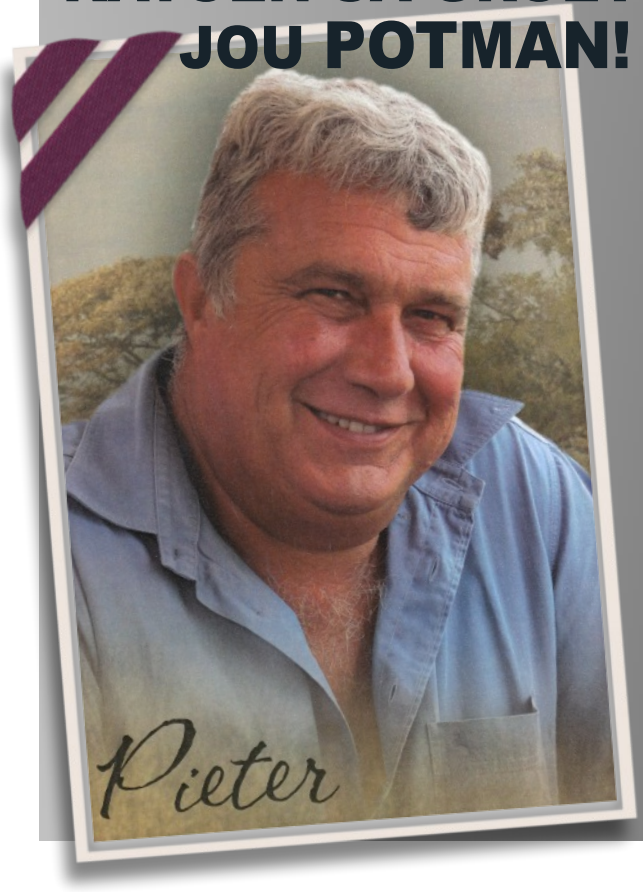


This is a schematic representation of a proposed structure being debated currently. It is by no means the final product as the development of structures is fluid and subject to change depending on circumstances. The first hurdle is to break down the barriers that has traditionally kept the producer from the rest of the supply chain. This task is being undertaken at the moment.

The reality is that this is not a new innovation. An article in Farmers Weekly July 2010 had this to say in an interview with a leading agricultural financier: *It is the focus and the way we do this that need to change, not our structures. It is a mind-set change. I have to go to credit and tell them I am taking a cotton shirt as security in order to finance diesel. But it doesn't end there, because our commodity finance guys will say "Very well, but we want a tangible product, we want to be able to touch it" – and that shirt hasn't been produced yet……"*

Watch this space. The dream of a forward thinking financier is about to become a reality through this innovation by Cotton SA.

KATOEN SA GROET JOU POTMAN!



Pieter Potgieter, vriend en voormalige katoenboer van Stella is op 18 Junie 2016 in die ouderdom van 56 oorlede.

Met die onverwagte afsterwe van Pieter het ons maar net weereens besef hoe kort kan 'n mens se lewe wees en watter leemte so 'n spesiale persoon in die landbou gelaat het! Sy passie vir katoen en betrokkenheid in georganiseerde landbou was alom bekend.

Sy betrokkenheid as Voorsitter van die Katoen SA Trust oor 'n tydperk van 9 jaar, het 'n groot aandeel ter ondersteuning van Katoen SA se visie om die skepping en instandhouding van 'n omgewing waarbinne die katoenbedryf optimaal kan ontwikkel, gehad! Pottie het hom ook vir 8 jaar uitgeleef in sy rol as onder-voorsitter van die Suid-Afrikaanse Katoenprodusente-organisasie, waar hy 14 jaar lank as bestuurslid gedien het. Voorts het hy sy jarelange visie vir ge-organiseerde landbou om oor landsgrense betrokke te raak, self uitgevoer deur die afgelope paar jaar tot met sy afsterwe, in Mosambiek met vee te boer.

Sy goeie verhouding met sy mede katoenboere was opmerklik en het daarom ook spontane ondersteuning en samewerking vir die daarstelling van 'n volhoubare produsente-omgewing ontlok. So kan ons as medeboere en vriende verder getuig dat hy voluit geleef het en geniet het wat hy doen. Ja, bo en behalwe sy onwrikbare vertroue in ons Skepper het hy ook in die meeste gevalle net die mooi en op sy droë manier, die humor in alles raakgesien.

Pieter sal vir lank in ons nagedagtenis bly voortleef en ons was bevoorreg om vir soveel jare met hom te kon saamwerk.

Graag wil die Voorsitter, Raad en Personeel van Katoen SA hiermee hul meegevoel met sy heengaan aan sy eggenote Annatjie en familie betuig.

Katoen se rol in die bekamping van die agteruitgang van die grond in die Loskopskema

Bydrae deur Deon Meyer, voormalige navorser by die LNR-IIG en tans 'n katoenboer in die Marble Hall omgewing.

Die Loskop besproeiingskema is ongeveer 70 jaar oud en volgens voorspellings is die leeftyd van so 'n skema 50 jaar. Met die ontstaan van Loskop was daar duidelik neergelegde riglyne rakende gewasse wat geproduseer moes word, wat katoen ingesluit het.

Die gronde in Loskop is in 'n staat van agteruitgang ! Hoekom word dit gesê ?

1. Afloop van water uit besproeide lande neem toe – Grondstruktuur?
2. Al meer kunsmis moet toegedien word om aanvaarbare oeste af te haal – Koolstofinhoud en Grondstruktuur?
3. Groter trekkers en groter implemente moet gebruik word om verdigtingslae op te hef – Grondstruktuur?

Wat is die redes vir agteruitgang van gronde ?

1. Voortdurende verbouing van gewasse.
2. Grond is baie duur en moet gevolglik optimaal benut word.
3. Wisselbou is in baie gevalle, slegs 'n wisseling in kultivars van dieselfde gewas.
4. Rusoes-stelsels of groenbemesting gebeur selde.
5. Koolstofinhoud van gronde is baie laag (.5%) – meer bemesting.

Hoekom is grondstruktuur en koolstofinhoud so belangrik ?

1. Hoe meer krummelrig die struktuur is hoe beter is waterinfiltrasie, hoe meer is voedingstowwe beskikbaar en hoe beter is die rendement.
2. Koolstof hou verband met die humus-inhoud van die grond. Humus is die gom in die grond, wat die struktuur verbeter.
3. Hoe hoër die koolstofinhoud, hoe beter is die verhouding tussen die "Bad & Good guys" in die grond.

Waar pas katoen in?

1. Die produsent kan weer geld maak met katoen.
2. Katoen staan langer op die land, m.a.w grond kan rus.
3. Die wortelstelsel van katoen is 'n besetter van grond: dit benut voedingstowwe meer effektief en kan baie diep in die grond indring. Wanneer materiaal verrot, kan die koolstofinhoud verhoog ("Good Guys").
4. Gronde droog uit en sodoende word skadelike patogene vernietig, wat positief is vir opvolg gewasse.

Katoen as gewas, is 'n baie goeie wisselbougewas, aangesien dit die agteruit gang van grond kan verlangsaam, maar dan moet die produsent geld maak.

'n Wyse man het gesê: "Die grootste gevaar in 'n boer se mondering is: as hy nie weet – dat hy nie weet nie."

NUWE DELTAPINE KATOEN KULTIVARS VARS UIT DIE OOND!

Monsanto se kultivarnavorsingspan het die afgelope paar seisoene hard gewerk om nuwe katoenkultivars te selekteer wat aangepas is in die verskillende katoen produksie gebiede van Suid Afrika. Die groot uitdaging was om opbrengs en pluispersentasie te verhoog, asook veselkwaliteit te verbeter.

Riaan van den Heever en Adriaan Wessels van Marble Hall by hul blok DP 1531 B2RF wat 6 t/ha gelewer het

Katoenplukker in aksie; 7 t/ha opbrengs!

Masjienplukbaarheid van DP 1541 B2RF

Dit is vir ons aangenaam om twee nuwe kultivars aan die bedryf bekend te stel, met uitstekende opbrengspotensiaal asook 'n beduidende verhoging in pluispersentasie.

Hierdie kultivars was die afgelope 3 seisoene in die Nasionale Kultivar Proewe (NCP) van die LNR-IIG beproef en het deurgaans uitstekend presteer.

Vervolgens meer inligting oor hierdie belowende nuwe kultivars:

DP 1531 B2RF (13P3001B2RF) is 'n medium groeiseisoen kultivar met 'n koniese en oop planttipe. Die groot voordeel van hierdie kultivar is dat dit ongeveer 2 weke vroeër oesgereed sal wees as die huidige DP 1240 B2RF of Delta 12 BRF met 'n pluis persentasie van 2 tot 3 persent hoër as die huidige Deltapine kultivars, wanneer handpluk monsters vergelyk word. Nog 'n voordeel van die oop planttipe is goeie ontblaring wat 'n beter graad pluksel behoort te lewer.

DP 1541 B2RF (13P3005B2RF) is 'n medium-lang groeiseisoen kultivar met 'n silindriese planttipe, dus word die bolle na aan die hoofstam gedra. Die voordeel hiervan is dat hierdie kultivar meer geskik is vir nouer rywydtes en hoër plantestand wat onder goeie bestuur en gunstige klimaat, buitengewoon hoë opbrengste kan lewer. Hierby het die kultivar ook 'n 2 tot 3 persent beter pluispersentasie as die huidige Deltapine kultivars wat die veselopbrengs sal bevoordeel.

Mnr Riaan van den Heever van Marble Hall het DP 1541 B2RF die afgelope seisoen verbou vir saadproduksie, en hy is baie tevrede met die resultate wat behaal is. Die gemiddelde opbrengs oor 29 hektaar was 6972 kg/ha saadkatoen wat uitstekend is vir die moeilike, droë seisoen wat baie druk op die besproeiing geplaas het.

Mnr Adriaan Wessels ook van Marble Hall, het DP 1531 B2RF vir saad aangeplant en het 'n gemiddelde opbrengs van 6045 kg/ha en oorwegend B grade behaal, wat onder baie moeilike toestande uistekend is.

Saad van DP 1541 B2RF sal in beperkte kommersiële hoeveelhede die komende seisoen beskikbaar wees, gegewe die uitslag van kwaliteitstoetse. Saad van DP 1531 B2RF sal voorlopig vir strookproewe beskikbaar wees in 2016. Kontak gerus vir Deltapine by 013 262 2972 of u naaste Monsanto katoensaad agent vir meer inligting.

Fanie Friis, MONSANTO Asia Africa TD Support COE Lead

DP 1531 B2RF

Besproeiingskatoen op die Loskopskema lewer ‘n goeie oes met minder water as vir enige ander gewas

"Soos in die res van die land was dit sekerlik ook een van die droogste seisoene ooit in die Loskop skema. Met hittegolwe wat temperature tot 50°C laat styg het, het ek die eerste keer gesien dat katoen onder spilpuntbesproeiing nie ontkiem of stik nie, omdat die grond te vining uitdroog. Ten spyte van dit en met 'n tekort aan water het ek tog my beste katoenoes in 32 jaar as katoenboer ervaar!" So sê Evert Genis, SAKPO voorsitter en katoenboer van Marble Hall.

Hy sê as daar een positiewe les hieruit te leer is, is dit dat katoen met relatief min water n goeie oes kan lewer. As voorbeeld lig hy een van sy lande in die verband uit:

> “Hier was die hoogste opbrengs 7881 kg/ha met n gemiddeld.oor 110 ha van 6162 kg/ha.”

- Plant 27 November 2015 met die wete dat daar nie genoeg water is om die oes groot te maak nie.(alle beskikbare water word toe gekanaliseer na die permanente gewasse).
- Met redelike ondervoeg van die vorige winteroes word die katoen net 2 besproeiings van 14 mm toegedien om goeie ontkieming te verseker.
- Vir 6 weke onder versengende hitte toestande word die katoen sonder enige verdere besproeiing gelos.
- Week 7 knyp ons toe maar so bietjie water af en gee die land 14mm besproeiing per week vir die volgende 7 weke.
- Nadat daar n bietjie ekstra water aangekoop kon word, word daar vanaf einde Februarie 2 keer per week 14mm besproei. Wat weer na 5 weke afgebring is na een besproeiing van 14mm per week.
- Gedurende Maart tot April het daar sporadiese klein buitjies reën geval met die grootste bui van 18mm.
- Op die einde was die totale besproeiing dus 350mm plus 150mm reën.
- Finale opbrengs 6168 kg/ha.

Die plaas op Groblersdal waar ons redelik genoeg water gehad het, was die beperking die besproeiingstoerusting en kon in die piekperiode slegs ook 2 besproeiings van 15mm per week toegedien word met totale water toegedien wat gewissel het tuseen 450 en 500mm plus 120mm reën. Hier was die hoogste opbrengs 7881kg/ha met n gemiddeld.oor 110 ha van 6162kg/ha. Hier was ook geelmielies aangeplant en het die opbrengs gewissel tussen 5.6t/ha tot 12t/ha.

Wat voornemende produsente in gedagte moet hou:

1. **Net soos by ander gewasse is baie vordering gemaak met nuwe kultivars in terme van opbrengs en kwaliteit.**
2. **Van die kultivars se groeitydperk is ook al korter,ongeveer 10-14 dae wat beteken die oes kan vroeër afgehaal word (nuwe kultivars is oppad wat nog beter gaan presteer).**
3. **Die nuwer katoenplukkers pluk nou ook heelwat vinniger as in die verlede en kan bykans met dieselfde tempo as graanstropers die oes van die land afhaal. Dit opsigself maak ook dat die opvolggewas vinnig in die grond kom.**
4. **Die waarde van katoen in 'n wisselbouprogram moet nie onderskat word nie. Opvolggewasse se opbrengs na katoen is lankal bewys.**

Inkomste uitgedruk tot waterverbruik:

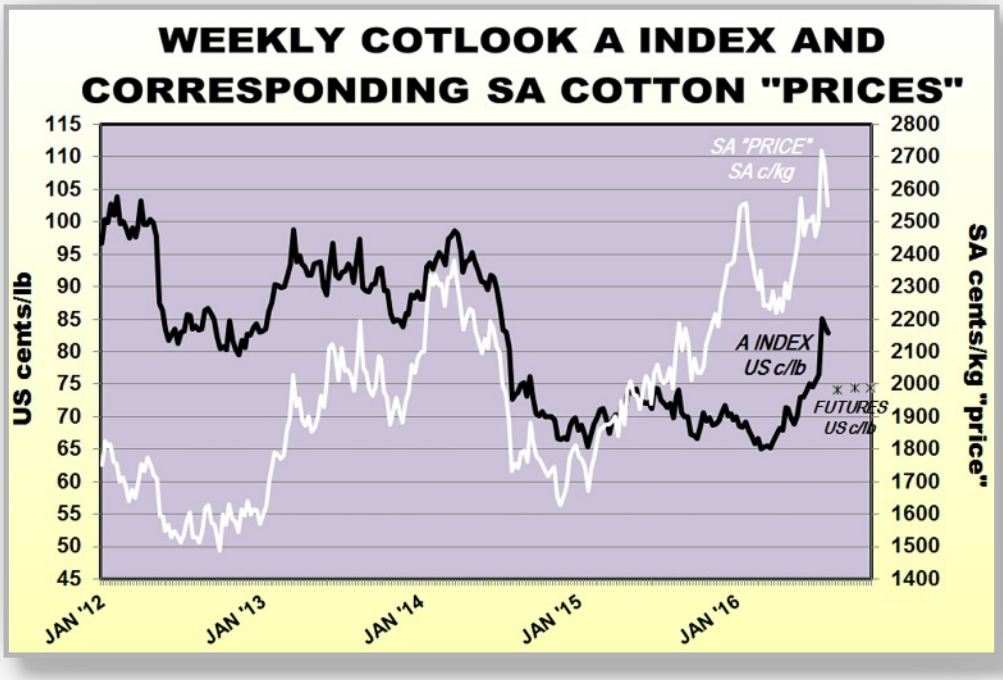
Katoen 6168kg. x R7.80 = R 48 110/ha (350mm water) = R137.45/mm
Mielies 10t x R4000 = R 40 000/ha (550mm water) = R 72.72/mm

Uit bogenoemde kan gesien word dat wat die rendement op mm water gebruik betref, katoen duidelik met baie minder water as enige ander gewas ‘n goeie oes kan lewer.

Markverslag soos op 1 Augustus 2016

Internasionale katoenpryse het in die tweede helfte van Julie 2016 tot oor 80 VSA c/lb gestyg teenoor die 2015/16 seisoen se gemiddeld van 70 VSA c/lb.

Hierdie onlangse styging in pryse is nie soseer die gevolg van vraag nie, wat steeds traag is, maar is meer as gevolg van skaarser katoenvoorrade wat ondersteun word deur die kleiner oeste deur die vyf grootste katoenproduserende lande wat vir 76% van wêreldproduksie verantwoordelik is. Sommige markanaliste glo egter dat namate die nuwe seisoen se katoen op die mark beskikbaar kom, daar weer afwaartse druk op katoenpryse verwag kan word.

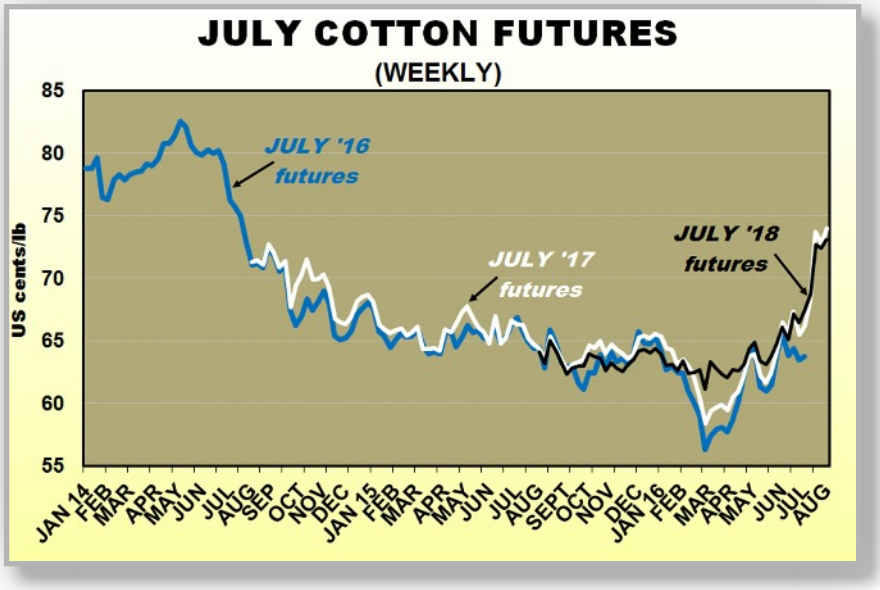


Volgens die International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), het die wêreldvraag na katoen met 1% tot 23.9 miljoen ton in 2015/16 afgeneem, terwyl wêreld katoenproduksie met 18% afgeneem het tot 21.3 miljoen ton wat bygedra het tot die katoenskaarste aan die einde van die 2015/16 seisoen.

Die ICAC raam dat wêreld katoenproduksie in 2016/17 met ongeveer 8% sal styg tot 22.9 miljoen ton. Produksiestygings in Indië, die VSA, Pakistan en Brasilië, sal opmaak vir die verwagte produksieafname in China.

Alhoewel wêreld katoenproduksie na verwagting in 2016/17 sal toeneem, sal katoenverbruik na raming op 23.9 miljoen ton stabiel bly. Katoenverbruik in China, die wêreld se grootste katoenverbruiker, sal na raming met 3% in 2016/17 afneem hoofsaaklik weens hoër katoenpryse, lae poliësterpryse en beperkte invoere. In Indië en Pakistan, wat gesamentlik vir 'n derde van wêreld katoenverbruik verantwoordelik is, sal katoenverbruik na verwagting onderskeidelik met 2% en 1% toeneem.

New York JULIE katoen termynpryse soos aan die begin van elke week:



Geraamde wêreldvraag en -aanbod vir katoen vir die 2014/15 seisoen en projeksies vir 2015/16 en 2016/17 (seisoene beginnende 1 Augustus):

(miljoen metrieke ton)	**2014/15**	**2015/16**	**2016/17**
Beginvoorraad	20.5	22.3	19.7
Produksie	26.1	21.3	22.9
Verbruik	24.2	23.9	23.9
Uitvoere	7.7	7.3	7.5
Invoere	7.6	7.3	7.5
Eindvoorraad	22.3	19.7	18.6
Eindvoorraad/verbruik (China uitgesluit)	56%	51%	51%
A Indeks (VSA c/lb)	***71***	***70***	***58-89***

Volgens raming deur die ICAC het wêreld katoenvoorrade op 31 Julie 2016 op ongeveer 19.7 miljoen te staan gekom, 'n afname van 12% teenoor 'n jaar gelede. Voorrade buite China het met 9% afgeneem tot 8.4 miljoen ton, die laagste vlak in 5 jaar. Die sterk vraag na katoen in China het gesorg dat sy nasionale vooraad die afgelope jaar met 12% afgeneem het tot 11.3 miljoen ton. Volgens die ICAC sal wêreld katoenhandel met 3% in 2016/17 toeneem.

Plaaslike vooruitskouing

Wat die plaaslike vooruitskouing betref, dui die 7e skatting vir die 2015/16 produksiejaar op 'n totale katoenoes van 43 398 bale vesel, 'n daling van 53% teenoor die vorige seisoen en 9% minder as verlede maand se skatting. Na skatting sal 42 798 bale geproduseer word van RSA geproduseerde katoenpluksel, 'n daling van 53% teenoor die vorige seisoen. Die balans van 600 bale vesel het betrekking op verwagte Swaziland geproduseerde katoen wat deur die Swaziland pluismeule gepluis sal word.

KATOEN OESVERSLAG - 7e SKATTING **2015/16 PRODUKSIE JAAR** *29/07/2016*

PRODUKSIE-GEBIED	HEKTARE BESPROEIING	HEKTARE DROëLAND	OPBRENGS BESPROEIING kg katoen pluksel/ha	OPBRENGS DROëLAND kg katoen pluksel/ha	PRODUKSIE 200 kg bale katoenvesel	% VAN OES HANDGE-PLUK	% VAN OES SOVER GEPLUIS
LIMPOPO PROV.							
Loskop	869	0	4400	0	**6691**	1%	52%
Noord & Suidvlakte	5	537	3499	700	**688**	0%	52%
Dwaalboom/Thabazimbi	0	0	0	0	**0**	0%	0%
Weipe	360	0	3500	0	**2331**	0%	20%
NOORDKAAP							
Vaalharts	1157	0	4695	0	**10049**	0%	93%
Benede Oranje Rivier	923	0	4800	0	**8196**	0%	50%
Res van NoordKaap	1070	0	5300	0	**10491**	0%	50%
NOORDWES							
Stella/Setlagoli	373	521	4000	980	**3705**	0%	50%
Taung	0	0	0	0	**0**	0%	0%
KWAZULU-NATAL	129	270	700	400	**368**	100%	0%
MPUMALANGA	28	768	3000	98	**279**	100%	52%
OOSKAAP	0	0	0	0	**0**	0%	0%
RSA TOTAAL	**4914**	**2096**	**4538**	**511**	**42798**	2%	58%
Swaziland*	0	800	0	400	**600**	100%	0%
Botswana*	0	0	0	0	**0**	0%	0%
Namibië*	0	0	0	0	**0**		
Zimbabwe*	0	0	0	0	**0**		
Mozambiek*	0	0	0	0	**0**		
GROOTTOTAAL	**4914**	**2896**	**4538**	**480**	**43398**	3%	58%

** Besonderhede het betrekking op verwagte aankope van katoenpluksel deur RSA & Swaziland pluismeulens vanaf hierdie lande.*

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF THE WEED PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHORUS (MARIA-MARIA)

The invasive plant species parthenium hysterophorus also known by the locals (Zulu and Swazi) as Maria-Maria is a common weed in the Mpumalanga Lowveld (Nkomazi area) and there is also a lot of it at Toitskraal (Marble Hall) and even as far afield as Rustenburg.

According to Dr. Roger Price, Division Manager at the ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute at Rietondale, the Institute has a well-established biological control programme against parthenium weed that is generously funded by the DEA-Natural Resource Management Programme (formally Working for Water). The Institute has also undertaken overseas surveys for natural enemies of parthenium weeds and imported promising natural enemies into South Africa under quarantine. These biocontrol agents were then evaluated for 3-5 years under quarantine glasshouse conditions to determine their life history and host-specificity against a wide range of plants related to parthenium, as well as a range of crops and edible crops. Some agents were rejected but others passed all the tests and official permission was given for release of these biocontrol agents against the parthenium weed.

Over the past two years the ARC has released 3 species of insect biocontrol agent and 1 species of fungal pathogen against parthenium. The releases have been focussed along the KZN north coast and in the Lowveld. All the agents have established in the field, but the severe drought conditions experienced this past summer season prevented their anticipated spread from the release sites. It is hoped that these agents will spread faster once the rains fall again. The Institute is also mass rearing and releasing the biocontrol agents at new sites to speed up the delivery of biocontrol to more parthenium infested areas.

Percy Macaskill
Manager: Cotton SA Mentorship Programme

Loskop Katoen bied 'n suksesvolle katoeninligtingsdag aan!

Wat 'n aangename verassing om byna sewentig boere vanuit die Loskop Besproeiingskema by so 'n interessante en suksesvolle boeredag bymekaar te kon sien wat op 19 Julie 2016 plaasgevind het! Met die al die moeite om die regte katoenatmosfeer te skep en sprekers te betrek wat betekenisvolle inligting oorgedra het, kon dit dan ook nie anders as om positief te voel wat betref katoenaanplantings in die skema en op droëland vir die komende seisoen nie!

Die waardering wat betoon was teenoor die innoverende denke van Katoen SA, SAKPO en die ander rolspelers in die bedryf wat o.a. tot die totstandkoming van die katoen "Cluster" gelei het, was opmerklik. Die belangrikste egter was Loskop Katoen se bereidwilligheid om leiding te neem in al die nuwe "Cluster" projekte soos bv. die deelname aan die "BCI" program wat betref die verbouing van katoen. Met sulke ondersteuning en dit wat in die toekoms gaan volg, was die boere tydens hierdie belangrike vergadering baie bemoedig vir die toekoms van katoen in hierdie gebied.

New Way to Boost Crop Production Doesn't Rely on GMOs or Pesticides

A new treatment for cotton seeds draws on beneficial microbes that live inside plants - much like the good bacteria in our own guts - to help the crops thrive in dry conditions.

Summary of a recent article by Mike Orcutt, Research Editor at MIT Technology Review.

Microbe-enhanced cotton, the first product from startup Indigo Agriculture, is already growing on 50,000 acres spread across five different states in the southern United States. Indigo CEO David Perry says the treatment increases yield as much as irrigation can. The company also today announced a new $100 million investment round that brought its venture funding total to $156 million.

Many experts argue that global agricultural productivity is not growing fast enough to keep up with the increase in global demand for food. Intense competition for land and pressures to reduce chemical fertilizer and pesticide use have led technologists to search for new ways to increase yield.

Adding beneficial microbes to crops could be an effective but less controversial alternative to genetic engineering.

The microbiome (the communities of bacteria and fungi that live in the soil around the roots on the surface of the plant, and inside the plant tissue) contributes to a plant's health and growth. The idea is that by isolating these good bacteria and fungi and then adding them back into the plant, they could stimulate more growth and make crops healthier.

Agriculture companies including Monsanto have already released a number of microbial products. But most of what's on the market now is focused on organisms that live in the soil. Indigo's focus is on so-called endophytes, or the bacteria and fungi that actually live in the plant tissue.

INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS FEDERATION: COTTON CONTAMINATION SURVEY

"After some improvements in the recent past, foreign matters, stickiness and seed-coat fragments in raw cotton pose serious challenges to the cotton spinning industry worldwide."

The above is the general conclusion to be drawn from the "Cotton Contamination Survey 2013" which has been released by the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF). In the 2013 report, 119 spinning mills located in 24 countries evaluated 73 different cotton growths. Tables 1 and 2 show the % degree of contamination for the various contaminants for the world compared to South Africa. Table 3 ranks the countries with the most contaminated descriptions.

Contamination - slight increase

The level of cottons moderately or seriously contaminated as perceived by the spinning mills from around the world rose from 23% to 26% compared to the last survey in 2011. A closer look at the extent of the contamination shows that 8% of all cotton evaluated were seriously contaminated by some sort of foreign matter whereas 18% were only moderately contaminated. The most contaminated cotton descriptions considered for the survey originated in India (DCH, Shankar-4/6, MCU-5, J-34, India-Others), Zambia, Pakistan (Pakistan Others), Tajikistan (Medium Staples), Uzbekistan (Medium Staples) and China (Xinjiang). In contrast, very clean raw cottons were produced in USA, (California, USA-Others, Memphis Territory, South Eastern and Pima), Spain, Australia, Brazil, Togo and Benin.

Stickiness - significant rise

The presence of sticky cotton as perceived by the spinning mills increased again in 2013 significantly from 20% in 2011 to 23%. This level is higher than the long-term average. Therefore, stickiness remains a major challenge to the global cotton spinning industry. Descriptions that were affected most by stickiness were those from Uzbekistan (Medium Staples), Turkmenistan (Medium Staples), Togo, Mozambique, Chad, Burkina Faso, Tajikistan (Medium Staples), Mali, Ivory Coast and China (Xinjiang). On the other end of the range, cottons from USA (Texas High Plains, California, South Eastern), India (J-34, MCU, India-Others), Zambia, Pakistan (Others) and Egypt (Giza) were not or hardly affected by stickiness.

WAT IS KONTAMINASIE

Wat word bedoel met katoenvesel-kontaminasie?
Dit is wanneer die pluksel (Saadkatoen) besoedel word met kontaminante of ander onsuiwerhede wat nie eie is aan die katoenplant nie.

Voorbeelde van kontaminasie
Die mees belangrikste elemente in hierdie geval wat ook die meeste skade veroorsaak in die verdere verwerking van die katoenvesel is o.a. vreemde vesels soos bv. "polypropelene" en ander vorms van plastiek wat gebruik word as verpakkingsmateriaal. "Nylon" tou en vesels van Jute word ook deur die spinbedryf as totaal ongewens beskou!

Klein deeltjies rubber afkomstig van "doffer plate", ghries, olie is ook somtyds deel van kontaminante wat tydens die plukproses die katoen besoedel.

Katoen wat met die hand ingesamel word, word die meeste blootgestel aan besoedeling veral wanneer daar van ongewenste plukhouers gebruik gemaak word tydens die oesproses. Tydens die meganiese oes van die katoen kan veral plastiese houers ook bydra tot die probleem!

Vervolg op bladsy 20

Seed-coat fragments - noticeable jump

With regard to seed-coat fragments the Cotton Contamination Survey 2013 shows that their appearance in cotton growths remains an issue for spinners around the world. 42% of cotton spinners claim that they have encountered moderate or significant amounts of seed-coat fragments in the cotton growths consumed. The origins affected most by seed-coat fragments are those from Nigeria, India (H-4, J-34, Shankar-4/6, MCU-5, India-Others), Pakistan-Others, Argentina, Mozambique and Zambia. Countries for which the existence of seed-coat fragments was negligible (prevalence of less than 30%) included those from USA (California, South Eastern, Texas High Plains, Pima, Memphis Territory, USA-Others), Spain, Benin, Australia and Burkina Faso.

Table I 2013

Country **All Countries** Growth: **All Growths** Number of samples: **484**

Source of contamination		Degree of contamination (%)		
		Non-existent/ insignificant	Moderate	Serious
1 Fabrics made of	- woven plastic	71	19	10
2	- plastic film	69	21	10
3	- jute/hessian	75	17	8
4	- cotton	64	22	14
5 Strings made of	- woven plastic	64	22	14
6	- plastic film	69	19	12
7	- jute/hessian	66	22	12
8	- cotton	62	24	14
9 Organic matter	- leaves, feathers, paper, leather e	45	39	16
10 Inorganic matter	- sand/dust	67	25	8
11	- rust	85	12	3
12	- metal/wire	82	14	4
13 Oily substances/chemicals	- grease/oil	86	13	1
14	- rubber	90	8	2
15	- stamp colour	91	7	2
16	- tar	93	5	2
Average of 1-16		**74**	**18**	**8**

	No(%)	Yes(%)		No(%)	Yes(%)
Stickiness	78	22	**Seed-coat fragments**	59	41

Table 2 2013

Country: **South Africa** Growth: **South Africa** Number of Samples: **2**

Source of contamination		Degree of contamination (%)		
		Non-existent/ insignificant	Moderate	Serious
1 Fabrics made of	- woven plastic	50	0	50
2	- plastic film	50	50	0
3	- jute/hessian	50	0	50
4	- cotton	50	0	50
5 Strings made of	- woven plastic	50	50	0
6	- plastic film	50	0	50
7	- jute/hessian	50	0	50
8	- cotton	50	50	0
9 Organic matter	- leaves, feathers, paper, leather e	50	0	50
10 Inorganic matter	- sand/dust	50	0	50
11	- rust	100	0	0
12	- metal/wire	100	0	0
13 Oily substances/chemicals	- grease/oil	100	0	0
14	- rubber	100	0	0
15	- stamp colour	100	0	0
16	- tar	100	0	0
Average of 1-16		**69**	**9**	**22**

	No(%)	Yes(%)		No(%)	Yes(%)
Stickiness	50	50	**Seed-coat fragments**	50	50

Continued on page 20

ITMF CONTAMINATION SURVEY

Continued from page 19

Table 3 2013

The Most Contaminated Descriptions

Ranking	Description		Degree of Contamination (%) *			Number of Samples **
			Non-existent/ insignificant	Moderate	Serious	
1	India	DCH	43	33	24	10
2	India	Shankar-4/6	48	24	28	30
3	Zambia	Zambia	48	46	6	6
4	Pakistan	Pakistan-Others	51	34	15	5
5	India	MCU-5	53	19	28	12
6	India	J-34	54	27	19	8
7	Tajikistan	Medium Staples	55	40	5	8
8	Uzbekistan	Medium Staples	59	31	10	10
9	China	Xinjiang	59	41	0	9
10	India	India-Others	62	25	13	8
11	India	H-4	67	20	13	5
12	Turkmenistan	Medium Staples	67	26	7	8
13	Pakistan	AmSeed AFZAL	68	19	13	5
14	Nigeria	Nigeria	69	18	13	7
15	Mozambique	Mozambique	69	30	1	7
16	Egypt	Giza	70	22	8	24
17	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	71	18	11	9
18	Mali	Mali	72	21	7	11

* Average degree of contamination by each of the 16 pre-indicated contaminants

** Minimum: 5 Samples

WAT IS KONTAMINASIE

Vervolg vanaf bladsy 18

Kontaminasie kan ook by die pluismeule tydens die stoor van die katoen plaasvind waar bv. tou, katoenwolsakmateriaal en beskadigde plastiese materiaal wat vir die beskerming van modules gebruik word, in die katoen kan voorkom.

Waarom word kontaminasie as so 'n bedreiging gesien

Dit is 'n alombekende feit dat tydens die voorskoonmaakprosedure wat die pluksel volg, kontaminante soos stukkies plastiek, "nylon tou" (twine) ens. in die pluisproses in repies geskeur word wat uiteindelik deel van die katoenvesel vorm.

Hierdie gekontamineerde katoenvesel maak dan op die ou end ook deel uit van die katoengare wat na die spinproses ook deel is van die geweefde lap wat in die tekstielbedryf as "seconds" bekend staan. Die finansiële verliese as gevolg hiervan word in die bemarking van die produk weerspieël en kan die betrokke pluismeule en katoenprodusente in 'n baie swak lig stel en kan tot gevolg hê dat 'n land of gebied se katoen deur die internasionale tekstielbedryf gebrandmerk word!

NEW FABRIC-RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY

Recycling has increasingly become a natural part of our everyday life, however there is still one industry slow to embark on the recycling route, namely the global textiles and apparel industry.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, 13 million tons of textiles were sent to landfills in the US in 2010, representing 5% of the country's total municipal waste stream. The total recovery rate for all textiles that year was only 15% whilst new garments keep arriving faster than old ones can go into thrift shops or landfills. It is estimated that about 80 billion new articles of clothing roll out of factories worldwide annually.

This can however all change with the use of the new fabric-recycling technology developed by a Seattle-based startup company, Evrnu. Levi Strauss recently teamed up with Evrnu, to create the world's first jeans made up of post-consumer cotton waste. The two companies created the prototype, a pair of Levi's 511s, using five used cotton T-shirts and a technique that Evrnu says consumes 98% less water than those associated with virgin-cotton products. "This process uses 2% of the water used in the original cotton garment process," says Evrnu CEO Stacy Flynn. The jeans, according to Stacy, provide a glimpse of a future where textiles are regenerated not just once but multiple times. Stacy says it does not matter how worn out the garments to be recycled are, in the end it's "cellulose in and cellulose out." She says there could be up to 20% waste from the process, but so far they have seen much less.

"We can take your old jeans, break them down to the molecular level, build them back up into beautiful sweaters that feel good and hold colour beautifully. When you are done with that sweater and it's been reused and recycled, we can break it down again, and convert it back into premium jeans," she says. In the past, recycling clothing has usually involved just "downcycling" it into something of lower value. Jeans, for example, might end up as insulation in a building. But it hasn't really been possible to turn old cotton into something good enough to make a brand-new garment out of.

Traditional fabric recycling also makes the thread much weaker. "It really just is shredding the fabric and mixing it with virgin fibre for strength," says Paul Dillinger, head of global product innovation at Levi Strauss & Co. "It doesn't delicately unweave that which was woven, it really just chews it up. Evrnu is a closed loop, chemically regenerated fibre; garment waste is broken down to the molecular level and extruded into first quality fibre." The new technology fully dissolves and separates various materials so they can be turned into something new - and even stronger than it originally was.

"By changing the idea from just shredding up the garments to actually kind of melting them, dissolving them down to their molecular structure of cellulose, and reconstituting the fibre, it eliminates the pollutants," says Dillinger. "We're re-extruding it as a continuous filament fibre, so it doesn't have reduced strength - it actually has improved strength quality." Levi's goal is to make recycled jeans that look and feel no different than the jeans they make now. "Our goal is to create a consumer experience that is wholly consistent with the jean you already know," he says. The company partnered with Evrnu early in the process, to help the startup develop technology to be able to deliver the specs that Levi's will eventually need as a customer.

Making cotton this way uses not only uses less water but also dramatically reduces the carbon footprint. The chemicals used to dissolve old clothing are fully reused in a closed loop, so the new process doesn't create pollution.

Outlook on Textiles

According to the South African Reserve Bank, South Africa's real growth turned negative in the first quarter of 2016, with real GDP contracting at an annualised rate of 1.2%.

Results from the latest Ernst & Young/BER Retail Survey suggest that the growth in retail sales volumes slowed further during quarter 2 of 2016. Semi-durable goods retailers (e.g. textiles, footwear, toys and sporting equipment) also reported low sales growth during this period. The late start to winter is mentioned as one of the reasons. The other being tighter credit conditions and slower disposable income growth. These retailers were forced to cut profit margins in order to increase sales volumes. Consumer inflation is expected to accelerate further during 2016 as rising fuel prices and increasing food inflation continue to put higher upward pressure on the input costs of retailers.

At current values, the retail trade sales value for textiles, clothing, footwear & leather goods during the first quarter of 2016 amounted to R41 billion, up by 10.8% compared to the same quarter in 2015.

The average volume of production index for the spinning, weaving and finishing sector as well as the knitting sector (fabrics and garments) for January to March 2016 showed an increase of between 3% and 3.7% compared to the same quarter in 2015, while that of other textiles showed a decrease of 7%. Clothing's index also showed a decrease of about 10%.

Ex-factory sales value for the spinning, weaving and finishing sector increased by about 16 per cent to amount to R1.9 billion, while the sales of other textiles increased by just under 9 per cent at R3.3 billion. Knitting mills' sales amounted to R0.6 billion, an increase of around 5 per cent. The ex-factory sales value of other clothing decreased by more than 12 per cent to amount to R3.2 billion. The local market for textiles and clothing is estimated to be approximately R17 billion for the first quarter of 2016.

It is estimated that the sales of locally produced cotton fibre, yarns and fabrics amount to approximately R28 million. This is about 1.4 per cent of total ex-factory sales for the spinning, weaving and finishing sector.

There is a slight decline in the utilisation of capacity in both the textile and clothing sectors. At February 2016 capacity utilisation in the textile sector was less than 70%, 4% less than at the same time in 2015. The clothing industry's capacity utilisation at February 2016 was 78%, about 1.5% lower than at February 2015. The main reason for the lower utilisation is insufficient demand.

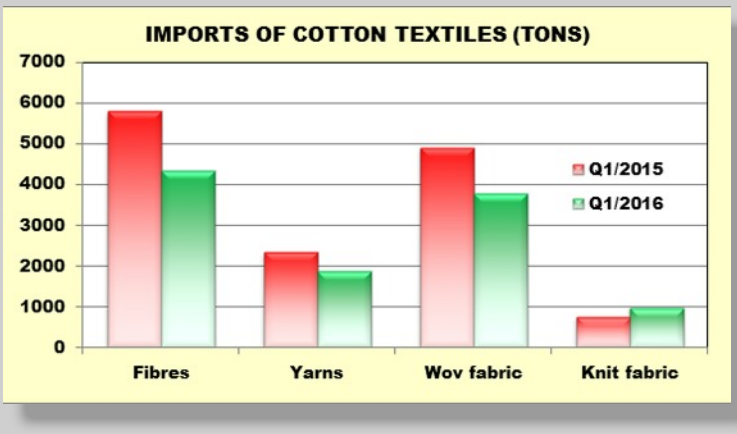
Imports of cotton textiles and textile goods (including garments) during quarter one of 2016 is approximately R3.7 billion, up by about 24% compared to quarter one of 2015. However, export of cotton textiles and textile goods (including garments) increased by about 12% to amount to R0.4 billion.

From the available statistics it is clear that the value of imports continue to increase. During January to March 2016 the total value of textile imports is R4.9 billion (an increase of 9.2% compared to the same period in 2015), while clothing imports increased by 27% to amount to R7 billion. The volume of imported cotton garments increased from 52 million units in quarter one of 2015 to 55 million units in quarter one of 2016. Imports of cotton t-shirts increased from 13 to nearly 15 million units.

During the first quarter of 2016 SA has exported textiles to the value of R2.6 billion, an increase of about 30% compared to the same quarter in 2015. Clothing's exports increased by 1% to R1.1 billion. During January to March 2016 South Africa exported 3.7 million units of cotton garments, a decline of 5% compared to the same period in 2015. Exports of cotton t-shirts decreased from 1 million units to 0.8 million units.

However, when we look at the volumes of cotton imports, it appears that during the first quarter of 2016, compared to the same quarter in 2015, less cotton yarns and fabrics have been imported. South Africa imported 1.9 million kg of cotton yarn (20% less than the same period in 2015). During the same quarter South Africa imported 3.8 million kg cotton woven fabrics (23% less than the same period in 2015). Woven cotton fabrics represent 9% of the total volume of woven fabric imports during the first quarter of 2016.

Helena Claassens - Cotton SA



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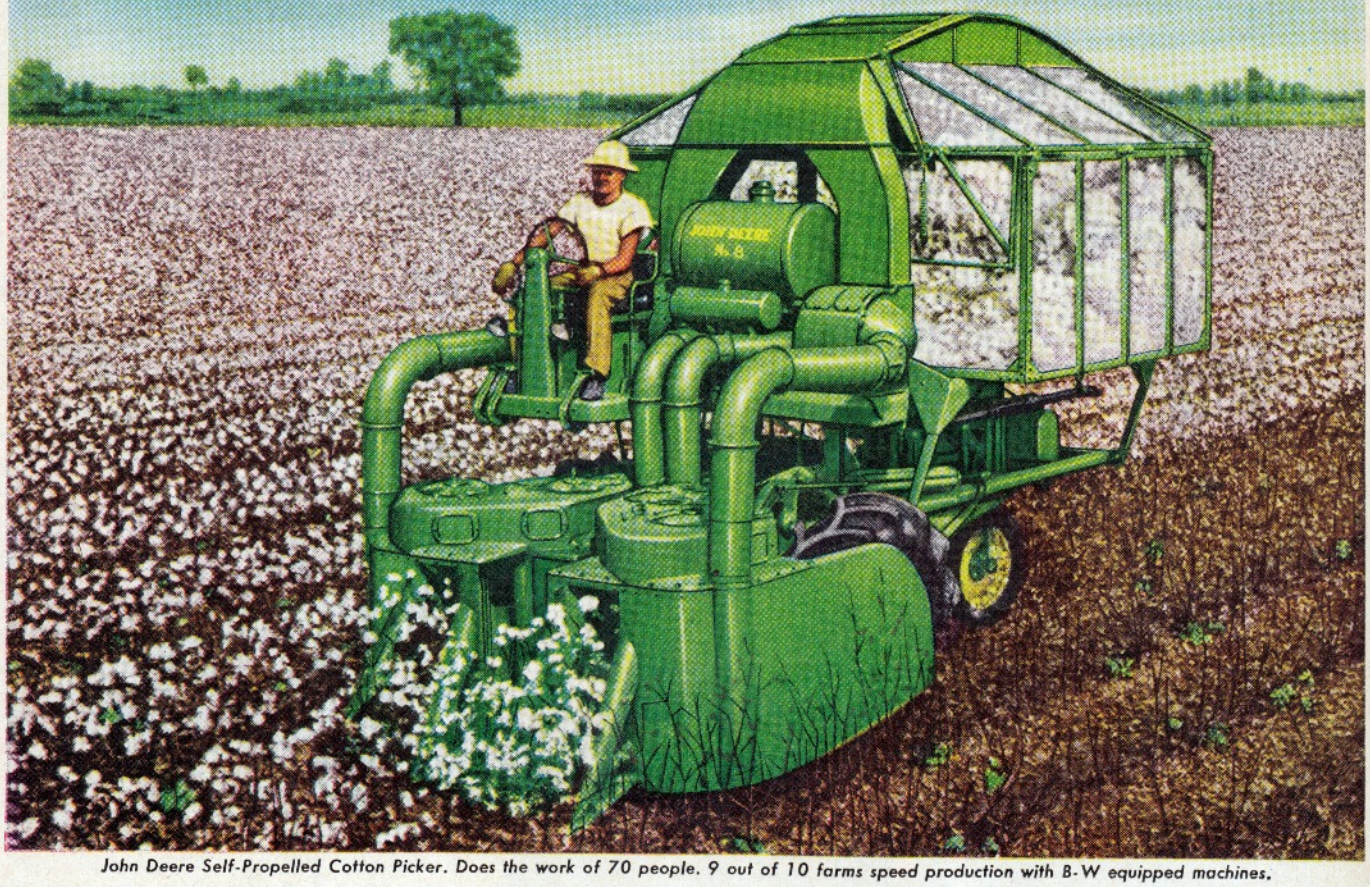

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